

ELECTRICITY COOKS WORKERS' MEALS

Visitors During "Electrical Week" See Modern Cafeteria in Action

FEEDS 200 MEN DAILY

Electrician's Prediction for Electrical Week

Visitors to the great Schuylkill Water-works Station of the Philadelphia Electric Company during the "Electrical Week" observations now in progress are no less amazed at the modern turbo-generator than at the more dainty, but equally wonderful electric cafeteria that provides the meals to the more than 500 workers employed at the station.

Every operation possible has been electrified, even to the cigar lighter that ignites the after-dinner smoke. The huge range, with its electric burner, is connected to the electric system by a special wire.

Even the garbage is handled electrically. A garbage refrigerator is installed in a convenient place behind the counter of the cafeteria. It consists of a special white-enameled metal walls which receive the garbage and keep it at freezing temperature until the time of removal.

At the psychological moment Emperor Diocletian, who, up to that time, had shown more administrative ability than any of his predecessors, by his sweeping social reforms, with a bold stroke issued an edict setting a maximum price for which various articles of food and clothing were to be sold in the future, and prescribing a death penalty for any one who disposed of his wares at a higher price.

Whether or not the Roman or the American workman could buy more of the commodities of life with the return for his labor can be answered by drawing a comparison between the average living expenses incurred by them.

Down in the main part of the plant is located a large cement building of two stories, which is used entirely for restaurant purposes by the shop employees. At this restaurant the workman can purchase for a very small sum a clean, wholesome lunch or meal. If he so desires at any time except when dinner is being served, he can purchase a sandwich, some fruit, a cup of coffee or a glass of milk.

LIVING PROBLEM OF ROMANS IN 301 A. D. LIKE TODAY'S ISSUE

Emperor Forced to Halt Greedy Dealers With Death Threat and Regulate Food Prices—Instances of Control in B. C. Periods

COMPARISON OF FOOD PRICES IN EARLY ROMAN DAY, AND NOW

AT THE present moment, when the high cost of living is a subject which is concerning the economist, politician and housekeeper as it did the common people of the Roman Empire during the reign of Emperor Diocletian, a comparison of the prices of food in the year opening the Fourth century with those of today is interesting:

Table with 2 columns: PRICE IN 301 A. D. and PRICE DECEMBER, 1916 A. D. Lists various food items like Butter, Eggs, Cheese, etc. with their respective prices in cents.

Economic conditions strikingly similar to those which confronted the people of the Roman Empire, with the beginning of the Fourth century, are facing the people of the United States today.

History records the fact that the year 301 A. D. found the entire populace of the Roman Empire in a state of agitation over the unprecedented high price of food-stuffs. Most of the real necessities for the sustenance of life had risen so high in price that the poorer class was on the verge of starvation.

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A starting point for such an estimate is furnished by the report of the United States Commissioner of Labor on "The Cost of Living and Retail Prices of Food." While this report was published several years ago, the conditions throughout this country have changed but little up to the present time.

In the first of these documents, it is pointed out that the expenditure for rent, fuel, food and other necessities of life in 11,118 normal families in America, whose incomes range from \$500 to \$1200 per year, is given. It shows that the average amount spent per year was \$137, of which \$124, or a little less than one-half of the entire in-

at a higher figure. This systematic attempt to regulate trade was very much in keeping with the character of Diocletian and his theory of government.

Perhaps no Roman Emperor showed such extraordinary administrative ability and proposed so many sweeping social reforms as he did. It was he who introduced the monarchial principle, fixed upon a method of succession to the throne, established a carefully graded system of grades and organized the coinage and the system of taxation. It is not surprising therefore that he had the courage to attack the difficult question of high prices.

The first fragments dealing with Diocletian's edict were discovered in Caria, in 1709. Since then other parts of the edict have been unearthed in Egypt, Asia Minor and Greece. At present portions of twenty-nine copies of it are known.

As it is, the introduction is complete, and perhaps four-fifths of the list of articles with prices attached are extant. The edict was sold by the imperial scribe in the form of a scroll, and the government to adopt this drastic method of controlling prices.

The present-day accepted measure of quantity, the bushel or the quart, has been substituted for the ancient unit, and the corresponding price for the modern unit of measure is given. Thus the price of wheat by the hecaton (a hundred bushels) was \$1.50, or one-half quart at 100 denarii (fourty-three cents). At this rate a bushel of barley would have brought about \$1.50 per bushel.

Only a few selected articles named in the edict are given here:

Table with 2 columns: BUSHEL and OILS. Lists prices for Wheat, Barley, Beans, etc. and Oils like Olive, Mustard, etc.

Diocletian's Diatribe

In explaining the situation which confronted the world at that time the Emperor writes: For if the raging avarice which, without regard for mankind, increases and develops by leaps and bounds from month to month, could be held in check by some regard for moderation, or if the welfare of the people could calmly tolerate this mad license from which, in a situation like this, it suffers in the worst possible fashion from day to day, some ground would appear, perhaps, for concealing the truth and saying nothing but insinuating as there is soon only a mad desire without control, to pay no heed to the needs of the many, it seems good to us, to us who are the fathers of the people, that justice should intervene to settle matters impartially. Who is so hardened of heart and so untouched by a feeling for humanity that he can be unaware that in the sale of wares which are exchanged in the market, or dealt with in the daily

business of the cities, an exorbitant tendency in prices has spread to such an extent that the unbridled desire of plundering is held in check neither by abundance nor by seasons of plenty.

If history did not tell that this was found on tablets sixteen centuries old it might be taken for a newspaper article against the cold-storage plan for the beef trade.

That the high cost of living has presented a problem so marked almost from the beginning of time is evidenced in the fact that the Babylonians in the twelfth century B. C. displayed a tendency to regulate prices of commodities when it was found that hoarders of iron were combining to boost the cost. These facts are recorded on the many cuneiform characters upon tablets of baked clay, which are preserved today.

King Hammurabi in the year 2000 B. C. established a code of punishment to prevent extortion and dishonest business dealing on the part of the shopkeepers. One of the provisions of the code was that if any shopkeeper should charge too much, or use wrong scales in measuring out the price of commodities, he or she should be thrown into the river.

The same may be said of the ancient Hebrews. Records show clearly that these people in the year 1500 B. C. had a law against the high cost of living. During the reign of King Jehoram in 850 B. C. an edict was issued fixing the price of flour at one shekel for ten shekels (about forty cents). Two shekels of barley were to be sold for the same amount, it was decreed.

While mention is made of several other commodities during these early periods, no mention of eggs can be found in Babylonian literature. It is supposed that chickens were introduced in Babylonia by the Persians some time later.

Even as far back as 2400 B. C. records have been found showing that prices for all that could be charged for two measures of flour, barley or rye. One sale of thirty shekels of wool for ten shekels is recorded. At that time a house rented for three shekels (about \$1.50 a year). Servants were hired for one and one-sixth shekels for two months. A laborer could be hired for the same amount, provided he was given three days off. This was deemed necessary because, there being no Sundays, consequently there was no day of rest at that time. It cost a man thirty shekels to divorce his wife, while he could purchase a new one for about six shekels (\$2.50).

A year of corn, equal to about sixty pounds, was sold at that time for one shekel, or forty cents.

The story of Joseph indicates that the Egyptians were in the habit of cornering foodstuffs in times of plenty and then disposing of it during the days of distress.

Four Big Liners Will Be Built in Camden

Continued from Page One

Mr. Knox would be ideal for the purpose of constructing such vessels. "The plant there is up to date," Mr. Franklin said, "and it is in excellent condition, and we shall commence to build ships there for the allied companies in the latter part of the year."

Mr. Knox said there was no question about the Camden plant being one of the best of the big new ships we propose for the American Line, and it could build them successfully.

"If the New York Shipbuilding Company has secured the work of building those four big ships, we will have a boom such as the Philadelphia waterfront has never known. We will have plenty of work for a long time for large forces of men."

"We have already completed plans for a considerable expansion of the Camden plant, and we will have plenty of work for the future."

Mr. Knox predicted that Philadelphia is a shipbuilding center, and that this city in the near future would take a position in the front rank of the world's ports.

The purchase of the company by New York interests, Mr. Knox explained, naturally would swing a big boost in trade toward Philadelphia. He also said the situation was being regulated by the government.

For instance, in this year one shekel was all that could be charged for two measures of flour, barley or rye. One sale of thirty shekels of wool for ten shekels is recorded. At that time a house rented for three shekels (about \$1.50 a year). Servants were hired for one and one-sixth shekels for two months. A laborer could be hired for the same amount, provided he was given three days off. This was deemed necessary because, there being no Sundays, consequently there was no day of rest at that time. It cost a man thirty shekels to divorce his wife, while he could purchase a new one for about six shekels (\$2.50).

Watson's Election Bill, \$1420



Sold in 2, 5, 10, 25 and 50 lb. cotton bags

Tell your grocer that you want cane sugar and name it—Franklin Granulated. Then you'll get the best cane sugar, of highest sweetening power, quickly dissolving. Packed at the refinery in cotton bags.

Franklin sugar satisfies

Granulated, Dainty Lumps, Powdered, Confectioners

Advertisement for Gold Cigarette Cases, featuring an illustration of a woman and text describing the cases as 'Very thin models richly ornamented with brocaded engine turning and engraving. Monograms fashioned in Platinum, Gold or Diamonds and Sapphires.'

Large advertisement for 'The System' magazine, featuring a portrait of Andrew Carnegie and text: 'Buried in obscurity, by the sheer power of a keen idea, Andrew Carnegie revolutionized all business in iron and steel. Did they mean more in business than this now? Not if we heed the words of a man as busy as Charles M. Schwab, Chairman of the Board of the Bethlehem Steel Co. For in speaking of Schwab as the one great source of plans and methods from business everywhere, Mr. Schwab says, "I find it repays me for the time I give to him." And he adds: "Mr. Carnegie told me about his article in Schwab during our recent trip to Pittsburgh." Why shouldn't you, too, gain by watching Schwab's some fact-making ideas, perhaps at least a score of knacks and plans and methods every month that will cut your business costs and are sure to make your earnings grow. Get December Schwab today at your newsdealer's. If your newsdealer is already out, send for a copy to the publisher, A. W. Shaw Company, Chicago or New York, or, if absent, London.'

Advertisement for 'Skin trouble costs many a man his job' featuring an illustration of a man's face and text: 'No matter how efficient a man may be, if he has an ugly skin-eruption, there are positions in which he cannot be tolerated. He may know that it is not, in this sense, contagious, but many people are afraid they avoid him, and he must make way for a man with a clear, healthy skin. Why run this risk, when Resinol...'

Advertisement for '58th CHRISTMAS G. A. SCHWARZ TOYS' located at '1006 Chestnut St.' and 'SEND FOR CATALOGUE'.

Large advertisement for 'HERE YOU ARE' toys, featuring an illustration of a woman and child and text: 'The hit of the year for young folks—MAMA and PAPA GOOSE. ONE GRAND LAUGH From Cover to Cover in which MORRIS H. PANCOAST is shown to be the cleverest Act-Historist of today. Fun and Real Art Combined, in Gay Colors. MAMA and Papa Goose "come back" along modern lines—They mix with real people—they have adopted a child—"Baby Goose"—They attend Parties—Dance—Automobile—Go to Ball Games—play Golf—Everything that regular people do—And the way they do it makes fun for everybody. \$1.35 net at all Book Stores BRITTON PUBLISHING CO. NEW YORK.'

Advertisement for 'Splendid Xmas Gift for the Housewife' featuring 'Stewart's Apex Electric Suction Cleaner' and text: 'A gift that will surely be appreciated, as it does away with the drudge of house cleaning. Stewart's Apex Electric Suction Cleaner. Stewart's Apex Electric Co. 1000 Chestnut St. Philadelphia, Pa.'